

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 548
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Merle Kirkwood for
meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body honor those people who through
their endeavors are credits to their professions; and

WHEREAS, one such person is Merle Kirkwood of Sumner County, Tennessee's oldest
active emergency medical technician; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkwood has served with alacrity and acuity for many years with
Sumner County's emergency medical technicians; he had been a valuable part-time volunteer
for more than fifteen years before joining the force full-time four years ago; and

WHEREAS, Merle's concern for his fellow men is evident as he worked for many years
as an unpaid volunteer, often pulling 24-hour shifts in addition to having a full-time career; and

WHEREAS, Merle has always had an interest in the healing arts and has spent most of
his life in one form of the medical profession or another; first, he became a nurse and spent four
years serving valiantly as an Army medic during World War II; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from the service, Merle spent a few years outside of the
medical profession, working as a carpenter and becoming a pilot; with a desire to re-enter the
profession he so dearly loved, Merle and his wife, June, moved to Iowa and opened a nursing
home; and

WHEREAS, Merle and his wife soon returned to our great state, opening a nursing home in Springfield; after being encouraged by one of his daughters, Merle became involved with the EMTs in the mid-1970's; and

WHEREAS, Merle has seen first hand the impact medical technology has had on the EMT profession over the past twenty years; he has seen the arrival of various new cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques and the advent and growth of 911; and

WHEREAS, perhaps Merle's most memorable experience as an EMT was when, with his white hair and white shirt, he was mistaken for an angel while caring for a disoriented accident victim; and

WHEREAS, for his twenty years of service that stands unparalleled in excellence, Merle recently received Sumner County's EMT of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Merle has exemplified the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; he has performed his duties with unprecedented devotion, caring for and saving the lives of many Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Merle Kirkwood, Tennessee's oldest active emergency medical technician, upon a lifetime of exemplary service to the medical profession and his fellow men.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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